

IDU MISHMI



Population:
9,350

Literacy:
45 %

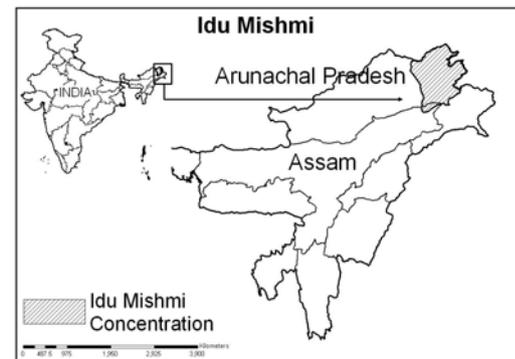
Scripture Status:
New Testament translation is in progress.

Dibang is a picturesque valley with abundant flora and fauna, surrounded by snow-capped peaks, turbulent rivers and mystical valleys. The Dibang Valley is a district of Arunachal Pradesh named after the Dibang River, one of the important tributaries of the mighty Brahmaputra. Dibang river originates in the mountains of China and flows through the length of the valley. This region is home to several indigenous tribes who are known for their rich culture and age-old traditions.

Among these tribes, the Idu Mishmis can be identified by their distinctive hairstyle, costumes and artistic patterns on their clothes. Men and women shave their hair at the sides of the head and wear it long, tied into a knot at the back. The hair in the front is cut short and hangs over the forehead. This peculiar hairstyle earned them the name Chulikatta (Crop-haired) Mishmis. These people are of a sober nature, still maintaining deep-rooted aesthetic values in their day-to-day lives with great pride and honour. Marriage has an important role in Idu society. Anyone who fails to marry is seen as socially inferior and a failure.

The Idus are expert craftsman. The Idu women, in particular, are very good weavers. Their great aesthetic sense is well reflected in the exquisite designs created on the clothes produced on handlooms. The Idu men are skilled in

basketry, making beautiful items of bamboo and cane. Idus have good opportunities for education, with many primary, higher secondary and technical schools. In addition, people are very interested in education. However, they don't have printed literature in their own language, but only oral traditions, especially folk tales.



Idus are mainly Buddhists, with a small percentage of Hindus. Their gods also include several benevolent and malevolent spirits. Christianity is generally considered a foreign religion and very few have responded to the Gospel. The geographical and climatic conditions do not favour cross-cultural missionaries staying there. The isolation of the community and restrictions imposed by the government on outsiders make it all the more difficult for anyone to reach this region. Other than a few song books and some Gospel booklets, there is no Christian literature available in the language of the Idus.

When an Idu Mishmi woman becomes pregnant, she rears three or four hens in the name of the expected baby. All the hens are sacrificed after her delivery.

Recently a team of Idu Mishmi Christians have begun translating the Scriptures. Idus need committed Christians, with the burden of reaching this community for Christ, to go to them as church planters, literacy workers and social workers.

Pray for:

- ▶ **The ongoing translation project and its successful completion.**
- ▶ **God to send more missionaries to work among the Idu as evangelists.**
- ▶ **Literacy work among women.**
- ▶ **Development, including improved transport, for this community.**